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Biden Expands Community Prosecution Throughout New Castle County

Wilmington, DE – Attorney General Beau Biden announced that the Delaware Department of Justice is expanding its community prosecution program throughout New Castle County after a successful start in the Southbridge section of Wilmington in 2007. The program, a complement to community policing, opens the channels of communication between prosecutors, police, and the public to target the worst offenders and address the issues most important to specific communities.

“Community prosecution works,” Attorney General Biden stated. “By assigning prosecutors to specific neighborhoods and building ongoing relationships with community members, civic organizations, and local police we’ll be able to proactively identify the worst offenders, focus our prosecutions on taking these criminals off the streets, and make our communities safer as a result.”

Under the expanded initiative, thirty-seven prosecutors have been assigned to six teams covering designated sections of New Castle County. The teams will coordinate prosecutions in their assigned geographical area. Each prosecutor assigned to a team has a particular area of expertise, with most teams containing at least one prosecutor focusing on drugs, misdemeanors, domestic violence, juvenile crime, and violent crime. Additionally, community prosecutors will work closely with the Delaware Department of Justice Nuisance Abatement team that targets properties where drug and other vice crime is allowed to flourish.

Community prosecutors meet regularly with community police officers, residents, community leaders and organizations, business owners, local officials and other concerned parties to identify “hot zones” of criminal activity and the worse criminal offenders in the area. Regular meetings with community members will also provide ongoing opportunities for the Department of Justice to share information with the community and address its specific concerns.

Information about the Delaware Department of Justice Community Prosecution teams for New Castle County and their contact information is available to the public on the Department’s website at www.attorneygeneral.delaware.gov.

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